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Approved For Release 2006/02/10 : CIA-RDP80B01676R001000120039-8

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21 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director, Intelligence


SUBJECT : Immunization of Key Government Officials Against  
Biological Warfare (BW) Agents

1. Attached as Tab A is a letter from the Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS) which:

a. Indicates that the ICIS has asked the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration to assume the continuing responsibility of advising the President and the Cabinet on the desirability of immunizing key government officials against BW agents in the event of a threatened BW attack against the United States. (The list of key officials includes the DCI "and Principal Assistants.")

b. Requests that CIA establish close liaison with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration for the purpose of keeping these agencies fully informed of intelligence on Soviet capabilities and intentions for employing BW against this country.

2. It is recommended that you approve the request of the ICIS and sign the attached letters to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (Tab B), the Federal Civil Defense Administration (Tab C), and the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (Tab D).

  
Acting Assistant Director  
for Scientific Intelligence

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Attachments (4)

NSC review(s) completed.

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Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security

ICIS-P25/192

2212 ~~3187~~ Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.

September 8, 1953

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Dulles:

At its meeting of August 25, 1953, the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security considered the report of its Subcommittee on Defense Against Unconventional Attack, entitled "Protection of key government officials against biological warfare agents by immunization." It was recommended to the ICIS that the following key government officials be immunized against smallpox, tetanus, typhoid and paratyphoid A and B:

President and Principal White House Assistants  
Vice President  
Speaker of the House  
Cabinet Officers and their Principal Assistants  
Director, Office of Defense Mobilization and Principal Assistants  
Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service and  
Principal Assistants  
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Principal Assistants  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency and Principal Assistants  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Principal Assistants  
Administrator, Federal Civil Defense Administration and  
Principal Assistants

It is the view of the ICIS that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration should jointly (1) review current information on possible BW agent developments in this country and abroad to determine the nature of BW agents that might be employed against key government officials and the likelihood that such agents would be so employed, and (2) when such review indicates a need therefor, recommend to the President and Cabinet such immunization of key government officials as may be required for protection against the threat.

The representatives of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare who attended the ICIS meeting indicated that the Surgeon General does not believe that his Department has sufficient access to foreign intelligence information to enable it adequately to appraise the risk of BW attack.

Accordingly, it is requested that your agency establish close liaison with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration in order that those agencies may be fully informed of intelligence indicating a BW attack upon this country and will be in a position to advise the President and the Cabinet with regard to the advisability of implementing the above recommendation.

Your acceptance of this responsibility and cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas J. Donegan*  
Thomas J. Donegan  
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee  
on Internal Security

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SEP 25 1953

*Quid*

Mr. Thomas J. Donagan  
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee  
on Internal Security  
2112 Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Donagan:

This will reply to your letter of 8 September 1953 concerning immunization of key government officials against biological warfare (BW) agents and requesting that CIA establish close liaison with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration for the purpose of keeping these agencies fully informed of intelligence on employment of biological warfare against the United States.

I am pleased to accept this responsibility and am asking the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Federal Civil Defense Administration to designate representatives to discuss with my representatives the subject of Soviet biological warfare capabilities and intentions and the method by which we will keep these agencies informed of future intelligence on this subject.

Please be assured of my continuing cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

GSI/JBR:kpj (21 September 1953)

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Concur:

[Redacted Signature Box]

Robert Amory, Jr.  
Deputy Director, Intelligence

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